

REMARKS:

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed on November 30, 2006.

Claims 23 – 107 are pending in the application.

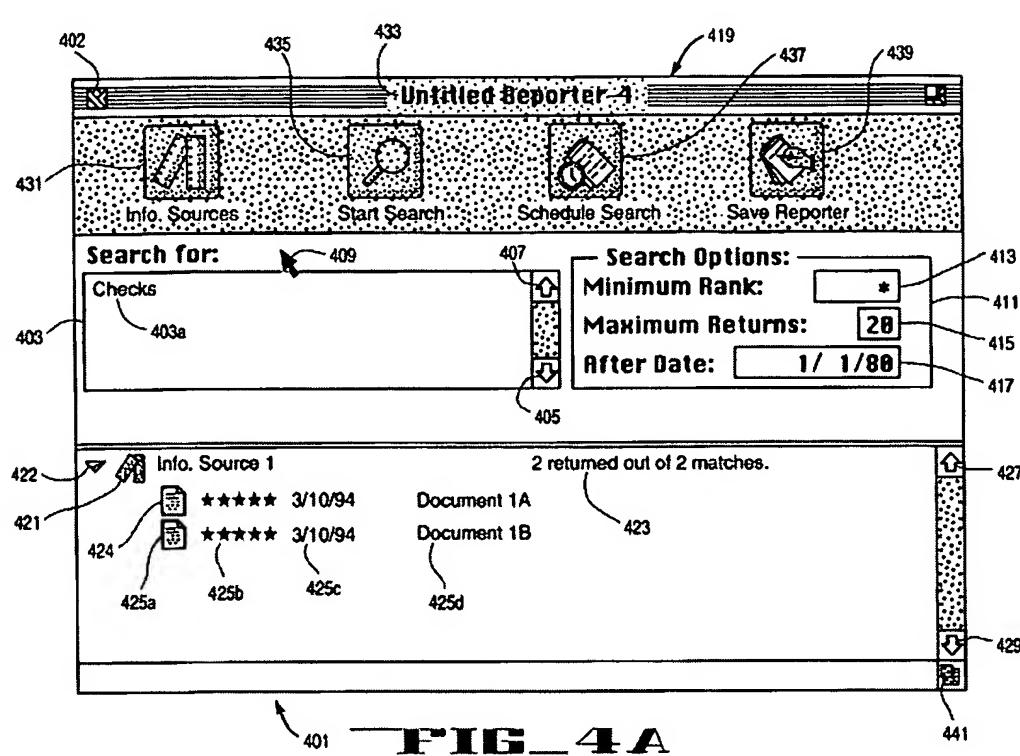
Independent claims 23, 59, 74, 81, 86, 90, 92, 94, 96 and 102 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by over Vora et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,819,273. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Consider claim 23. This claim recites “[a] computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer connected to a network are capable of causing the personal computer to: display a meta-folder, wherein the meta-folder is a file system object that is associated with search criteria” and “in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder, initiate searching the network and the personal computer for conventional objects according to the search criteria” (emphasis added).

Vora is directed toward “[a] method and apparatus” that “allow a user of a computer system to ...execute further searches after requesting a first search” and “to present...a report of a scheduled search.” Vora also teaches “allow[ing] a user on a client computer ... to obtain accurate information about the availability of information sources.” Vora, col. 3, lines 10-28.

First, Applicant respectfully disagrees that Vora teaches a “meta-folder,” “wherein the meta-folder is a file system object,” as is recited in claim 23. A text search of Vora for the term “file system” resulted in zero matches. Furthermore, the portion of Vora cited by the Examiner (col. 9, lines 38-51) does not appear to teach or suggest a “meta-folder [that] is a file system object.” Instead, this passage of Vora merely discloses that a “user of a client computer system, such as client system 33 starts the client's searching software to run on processor 37.” Vora, col. 9, lines 29-33; Fig. 3A (element 301). Vora goes on to state that “the user on the client system 33” can “create[] a new search ‘agent’ within a window 401 shown in FIG. 4a,” *Id.* at col. 9, lines 38-40.

Figure 4a of Vora (shown below) depicts a “[w]indow 401,” which “may be referred to as a search request window for a first search request specified in box 403 by parameters 403a” Id., col. 9, lines 42-44.



Applicant submits that Vora’s “window 401” is not a “meta-folder,” “wherein the meta-folder is a file system object,” as recited in claim 23.

Second, Applicant respectfully disagrees that Vora teaches or suggests “[a] computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer connected to a network are capable of causing the personal computer to: ... in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder, initiate searching the network and the personal computer for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria,” as recited in claim 23. Even leaving aside that Vora does not teach claim 23’s “meta-folder,” Applicant respectfully submits that Vora also does not teach “initiat[ing] searching” “in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder,” as in claim 23. Instead, Vora teaches that “[t]he user may begin the search by selecting the start search icon 435 [referring to window 401 depicted above] or by other command input techniques ..., such as using a sequence of keystrokes or ... pull down menu,” Vora, col.

11, lines 18-23. Applicant thus submits that these teaching regarding “begin[ning] the search” in Vora are distinct from claim 23’s recitation of “initiat[ing] searching” “in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder.”

The Examiner also cites portions of Vora that refer to a “scheduled search request” that “automatically search[es] at a scheduled search time.” *E.g.*, Vora, col. 14, lines 39-62. However, these passages include no teaching or suggestion of “receiv[ing] a command to open the meta-folder” and “in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder, initiat[ing] searching the network and the personal computer for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria,” as recited in claim 23. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 and its corresponding dependent claims are patentably distinct over Vora.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 59, 74, 81, 86, 90, 96 and 102, along with their corresponding dependent claims are patentably distinct over Vora for reasons similar to those set forth for claim 23.

Regarding claims 92 and 94, the Examiner has not shown how Vora teaches or suggests “an icon representing a search object.” Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion in Vora of “display[ing] an icon representing a search object along with one or more icons representing conventional objects in a window of a graphical user interface, wherein the search object defines a searching criteria,” as recited in claim 92. Accordingly claims 92 and 94, along with their respective dependent claims, are also believed to be patentably distinct over Vora.

For these reason, Applicant kindly requests that the pending rejections under section 103 be removed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

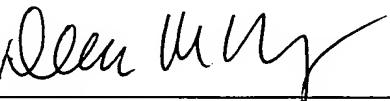
A fee authorization is enclosed to cover this extension fee. However, if the fee authorization is missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/6057-06101/DMM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 30, 2007

By: 
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